

Exploration of the Expression of Color Emotion in Oil Painting Sketch Creation

Qianwen Jin*

Jilin University of Arts, Changchun 130021, Jilin Province, China

**Corresponding author:* Qianwen Jin, jlyxyjqw@sina.com

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Abstract: This paper deeply analyzes the expression of color emotion in oil painting sketch creation. Starting with the three basic attributes of color theory (hue, lightness, and purity), this paper discusses its emotional symbolic significance and the relationship between contrast and harmony. By interpreting the works of artists such as Van Gogh's Sunflower, Monet's Rouen Cathedral, and Cézanne's Mont Sainte-Victoire, this paper shows the unique charm of different colors in conveying emotions, creating atmosphere, and expressing themes. At the same time, it is expounded that in the creation of an oil painting sketch, the effective expression of color emotion can be realized by observing nature, using subjective colors, and reasonable composition and layout of colors, so as to enhance the artistic value of the works.

Keywords: Oil painting; Writing and creation; Emotional expression; Art

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1. Introduction

Oil painting, as a charming art form, shines in the long river of art. In the creation of oil painting, color is akin to a smart note, playing an emotional movement. It is not only a simple description of the objective world but also a reflection of the artist's inner world. The emotional expression of color, like the soul of a work, can give it vitality and appeal. When the audience stares at an oil painting, the transmission of color emotion can resonate and touch the depths of the soul. Whether it is warm red, bright yellow, or quiet blue, different colors interweave a rich emotional world in oil paintings. It is of great artistic value and practical significance to explore the expression of color emotion in oil painting sketch creation.

2. Color theory and emotional expression

2.1. The basic attributes of color

The three basic attributes of color—hue, lightness, and purity, can build a rich color world through flexible application of color attributes. Among them, hue determines the types of colors, including a variety of colors,

such as lively and clear yellow, passionate red, quiet and deep blue, etc. Different hues exhibit different characteristics. Lightness refers to the brightness of color, such as white as light and deep as ink, and different brightness also give colors varying visual feelings. A higher lightness of color gives a bright and light feeling; a low lightness of color gives a calm and heavy feeling. Purity represents the brightness of color, and higher color purity is more energetic, bright, and eye-catching; low color purity is relatively more elegant and softer, giving people a sense of introversion and tranquility^[1].

2.2. Emotional symbol of color

Different colors carry different emotional and symbolic meanings. Red usually represents energy, enthusiasm, and danger. It can be compared to a burning flame, which stimulates people's inner passion. Yellow usually represents happiness, light, and hope, just like sunshine on the earth, giving a positive emotional endowment. Blue usually represents calmness, tranquility, and melancholy. Like the vast blue sky and the deep ocean, it can not only bring peace to people's hearts but also evoke faint sadness in people's hearts. In addition, green usually represents vitality; purple represents mystery, nobility, and so on. The reason the works presented by artists become classics is that they flexibly use color emotional symbols and carefully choose colors according to the theme of the works, so as to play the role of correctly expressing emotions.

2.3. Color contrast and harmony

Artistic works with strong visual impact and expressive force usually have good color contrast^[2]. Color contrast can make a big contrast between different colors, such as green and red contrast, which makes the overall color more eye-catching and vivid. Brightness contrast can highlight the three-dimensional sense and space sense of artistic works, and the contrast between dark and bright parts can create a richer level. Purity contrast can make bright colors more eye-catching and dim colors more restrained. Undoubtedly, it is inadequate to create art only by color contrast, and harmonious color matching is equally important. Harmonious colors help to create a more stable and comfortable visual experience so that people can feel balance and unity at the same time. In creating works, artists need to find a balance between different contrasts and harmony, making the works more attractive without losing the sense of harmony and achieving the ideal emotional expression effect.

3. Emotional expression of color in artists' works

Artists fully express the powerful emotional expression of color in oil paintings through their works. They skillfully apply colors and put their emotions, thoughts, and feelings about the world into their works, thus creating works of art with more connotation and appeal. When people appreciate these varieties, they can not only get visual enjoyment but also feel the artist's inner world and love for life from the works of art.

3.1. Van Gogh's Sunflowers

Van Gogh's Sunflower is a classic in the global art field. The work is dominated by bright yellow, and the bright and hot yellow sunflower is burning with the flame of life. Yellow is not only a color attribute in this work but also a symbol of Van Gogh's inner strong vitality and infinite love for life. The background of the Sunflower is blue, and the sunflowers set off are even more dazzling. The contrast between yellow and blue is strong, which expresses the conflict and struggle of Van Gogh's inner world and highlights his desire for light. The yellow sunflower represents the exuberance of life, and the blue background is more like Van

Gogh's inner melancholy and loneliness. Every sunflower blooms in a different posture, and its color and shape are dynamic, as if telling Van Gogh's awe of life and his yearning for a better life. Sunflower boldly uses yellow and blue and combines the complex emotions of Van Gogh. When people work using their hearts, they can deeply feel the burning passion and love for life^[3].

3.2. Monet's Rouen Cathedral

Monet painted Rouen Cathedral many times in different times and light, showing Monet's unique perception of light, shadow, and color. In the early morning sunshine, the church presents a warm orange-yellow, and the soft sunshine is sprinkled on the stone wall of the church, which gives the church a sacred and quiet atmosphere. The flexible use of orange and yellow expresses hope and vitality, as if a new day is full of infinite possibilities. In the evening, the shadows of blue and purple cover the church, and these cool colors are used to create a mysterious and quiet atmosphere, which makes people feel the passage of time and the shortness of life. Monet shows the emotional atmosphere of the church at different times by capturing subtle color changes. Monet not only simply describes Rouen Cathedral, but also expresses his unique perception of time, life, and nature. When people appreciate this work, it seems that they can personally feel the changes of the church at different times and immerse themselves in the colors every second with Monet.

3.3. Cézanne's Mont Sainte-Victoire

The work of Mont Sainte-Victoire adopts calm colors and solid shapes. In the picture of the work, there are blue mountains, green fields, and brown houses. Different colors and objects set off each other, creating a harmonious and stable atmosphere. The blue mountains give a firm and calm feeling, symbolizing the eternity and strength of nature; the green fields express the hope and vitality of life; and the brown houses give a safe and warm feeling. Cézanne expresses his awe of nature and his pursuit of order by carefully matching these colors. In the works of Mont Sainte-Victoire, we can feel the artist's profound understanding of nature and persistent pursuit of art, and experience a kind of inner peace and stability from the works^[4].

4. Methods of expressing color emotion in oil painting sketch creation

In the creation of an oil painting sketch, the expression of color emotion is a complex and charming process. By observing and feeling nature, using subjective colors, and utilizing reasonable color composition and layout, artists can integrate their emotions into their works and create oil paintings with appeal and artistic value.

4.1. Observing and feeling nature

In oil painting, one cannot express their feelings better without observing and feeling nature. Artists need to feel and capture the color changes in nature with sharper goals and more delicate hearts. Natural landscapes will present different colors in different seasons, times, and environments. The gentle sunshine in the morning brings fresh light yellow and light blue tones and gives nature a layer of hopeful and quiet colors. At noon, the sunshine becomes more intense and richer. Against the bright sunshine, everything shows a rich hue and high saturation color. In the evening, the afterglow of the sunset dyed the sky orange-red and purple-red, and the earth was also reflected as warm and poetic^[5]. Different seasons will show varying color changes. In spring, the earth recovers, vegetation germinates, and the colors are colorful, and full of vitality, with bright yellow, green, and pink as the main tone. In summer, flowers and trees are in a period of vigorous

growth, full of green everywhere, and the blue sky and clear lake water set off each other, making the color atmosphere more enthusiastic and unrestrained. In autumn, fiery red maple leaves and golden leaves, like the “color palette” of nature, are knocked over, with orange and red as the main tones, expressing the joy of maturity and harvest. In winter, the world seems to be covered with white snow, matching white snow with blue shadows can create a quiet and pure color picture^[6]. In addition, the color of the object and the relationship between light and shadow are also important. The color of the object in the shadow is dim, and the color of the object in the sun is more vivid. The colors of different objects interact and influence each other so that many colors echo and contrast with each other. Through careful observation of nature, artists can feel the magic and beauty of nature more deeply, thus stimulating their inner feelings and creative inspiration.

4.2. Using subjective colors

Artists subjectively process natural colors in combination with their own emotional needs and the theme expression of their works. One of the important means of expressing emotion in oil painting sketch creation is the use of subjective color. When the artist faces the natural scenery, instead of the mechanical amplitude of natural colors, and combines his inner feelings and creative intentions to select, strengthen, and change colors, oil paintings will be endowed with their own emotions. For example, when the artist wants to express a passionate and cheerful emotional theme, he can strengthen the purity and lightness of some colors. Improving the color purity of warm colors, such as yellow and red, makes the picture brighter and conveys a positive emotional atmosphere. On the contrary, when the author wants to express quiet and melancholy feelings, he can reduce the lightness and purity of colors, choose cool colors as the main tone, such as blue and purple, and make the colors softer and darker, thus creating a mysterious and quiet atmosphere^[7]. Furthermore, artists can better express their emotions by changing the hue of some colors. For example, the traditional green grass is treated as a blue tone, which gives the grass a dreamier color and feeling, thus expressing the unique emotional experience of the artwork. The correct application of subjective colors requires artists to have keen color perception and rich emotional experience and to integrate the objective colors of the world with the inner world, so as to create more personalized and appealing works^[8].

4.3. Utilizing color composition and layout

Emotional expression, color composition, and layout are critical in oil painting sketch creation. Flexible application of color layout, contrast, and echo can play a guiding role, thus creating a more distinctive atmosphere and emotion. In color distribution, artists can arrange different colors in different positions of the picture according to their own ideas. Warm colors, such as red and yellow figures and flowers, are arranged in the center of the picture, thus highlighting the enthusiasm and vitality of the theme and attracting people’s attention. Arranging cool colors at the edge of the picture, such as blue sky or distant mountains, creates a profound and quiet feeling and makes the theme of the picture more layered. Color contrast is an important means of composition. The stronger the hue contrast, the stronger the visual impact of the work, such as red and green, yellow and blue, black and white, etc., and express strong emotional conflicts by strengthening the visual impact. Brightness contrast can strengthen the three-dimensional sense and spatial sense of objects, and the contrast between dark and bright parts makes the picture expression more vivid and rich. Purity contrast can further highlight bright colors or make dim colors more introverted, which helps to create a richer emotional level. In addition, color echo is also indispensable, otherwise it will make the picture split seriously. Artists let the colors in the picture echo each other and improve the overall sense of the picture.

For example, if there is a touch of red in a corner of the picture, it can appear again in other parts, making the whole picture more coherent and rhythmic. Scientific color composition and layout will help artists guide people to the emotional world they have created, so that the audience can experience emotional resonance and spiritual touch ^[9].

5. Matters needing attention in color emotional expression in oil painting sketch creation

5.1. Grasping the characteristics of color

First of all, we should understand the cold and warm properties of colors. Different colors will give varying color expressions, such as cool colors giving a quiet and calm feeling, and warm colors giving vitality and warm emotions. During the creation period, we should use colors reasonably according to the emotions to be expressed. Secondly, we should use the lightness and purity of color correctly. High-brightness colors are light and bright, while low-brightness colors are depressed and deep. High-purity colors are bright and eye-catching, and the emotions are clear. Low-purity colors are elegant, soft, and restrained.

5.2. Integrating with the sketch scene

We should pay attention to the observation of natural light, and the colors of different light will also change. For example, the sunshine in the morning and evening gives the object a warm hue; cloudy days will make colors darker. We should grasp the color accurately according to the actual light, so as to express our emotions better. At the same time, we should also consider the environmental atmosphere. For example, quiet villages use soft colors to express pastoral tranquility; the bustling city uses bright colors to express liveliness and vitality ^[10].

5.3. Adding personal emotions

Artists should keep sincere expression, effectively integrate their emotions into colors, and avoid imitating and pursuing popular color styles. Only sincere emotional expression can move people's hearts. At the same time, we should also pay attention to the moderation of emotional expression. The emotional expression of color should not be exaggerated. On the premise of conforming to the overall atmosphere of the picture, color should be used appropriately to convey emotion, so as not to make the picture appear too impetuous or chaotic.

6. Conclusion

To sum up, the expression of color emotion in oil painting sketch creation is a complex and charming field. Through the understanding of color theory, the analysis of artists' works, and the exploration of personal creative practice, we can better grasp the methods and skills of color emotional expression. Color is not only an important expression of oil painting art but also a powerful tool for artists to convey emotions and express themes. In the future oil painting creation, we should focus more on the expression of color emotion, constantly explore and innovate, and create more works with appeal and artistic value.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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